

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled and Claims 21-53 added. Applicant respectfully submits these Claims add no new matter. Therefore, Claims 21-53 remain pending. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed December 10, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 14-16 and 19 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 14-16 and 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-20. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-20. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0049632 ("Rigole"). Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-3. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested as well.

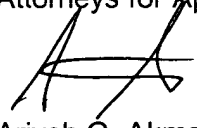
CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 21-53. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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